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From: CN=Erin Foresman/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Mon 4/19/2010 9:28:19 PM
Subject: quick BDCP update

Hi Melissa,

A quick heads up about BDCP and the potential footprint of the proposed intake structures. Right now, BDCP is focused on permitting and NEPA for "Delta Conveyance". In the past this concept has been called the peripheral canal, but now DWR is considering various pathways, a pipeline (instead of a canal) and some other options. At last week's meeting DWR and consultants provided information about alternative pathways for a canal or pipeline. Unfortunately, maps were not provided. The water intake structures were mentioned in the process of discussing pathways for a canal or pipeline and quick facts about the intake structures are relevant to the 404 program/permit. As currently envisioned, there will be 5 intake structures, six pumps each. The project area for each one will be up to 160 acres. Intakes will either be pipes under river levees, through levees with the intake in the bank of the river below the water level, or be a pipe that lies on the floor of the river and moves up and over the levee to the intake pumping structure. Some of the pumping structures may have to be quite tall, more than 30 feet above the ground level so they are compliant with flood regulations. We didn't get much more information than that; they didn't pass out alternative site locations for the intake structures. From context, I gather they are proposing five intake locations for five intakes.

I had been thinking the large 404 impacts would be associated with the pipeline or canal and was surprised to learn about how large the intake structures may be. Probably, this should not have been a surprise because I've toured both the state and federal pumping plants and the pumps and associated facilities are very large. Essentially, by moving the intakes from the south Delta, right next to the pumping plants, to the northern Delta, we're setting up five new pumping plants up north. So, I suppose it makes sense that the impacts would be comparable to the large facilities that exist today. Since it was a surprise to me, I thought I'd give you a heads up about it.

Just FYI for now. More to come soon,
Erin

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